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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABUJA 002116

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/W, AF/RA AND PM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/22/2011

TAGS: [MASS](#) [MARR](#) [KPKO](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [NI](#) [SL](#)

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: NSA MOHAMMED ON OFR AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: A. ABUJA 2072

[B](#). STATE 143583

[C](#). ABUJA 2113

[D](#). ABUJA 2115

(U) Classified by Ambassador Howard F. Jeter; Reasons 1.5 (b) and (d).

[1](#). (C) Ambassador Jeter, accompanied by PolMilOff, called on NSA Aliyu Mohammed on August 22. LTC Idris, the NSA's Military Advisor also attended. In addition to a discussion of GON efforts in a number of African hot-spots, the WCAR and counter-narcotics (septels), the Ambassador and NSA also discussed security assistance and the UNAMSIL troop rotations.

[2](#). (C) Ambassador Jeter informed the National Security Advisor of the Embassy's efforts to improve the security assistance relationship with the Ministry of Defense (Ref A), and noted the positive efforts of Minister of State Batagarawa to that end. He also emphasized that one of the LOAs, the amended LOA for MPRI, had to be signed within days or MPRI would leave Nigeria on September 8. The NSA requested the Ambassador continue to work with Minister of Defense Danjuma and Army Minister Batagarawa on these issues. However, he said he would also discuss them with Batagarawa after the Council of State meeting that afternoon. (NOTE: Acting Defense Minister Batagarawa, a close associate of the NSA, called the Ambassador later that afternoon, and said he had directed Nigeria's DATT in Washington, Group Captain John Ode, to sign the amended LOA. END NOTE.)

[3](#). (C) Ambassador Jeter then addressed the desired UNAMSIL troop rotation schedule, which would allow for the three OFR Phase III Battalions to rotate into UNAMSIL as a group in January immediately after the completion of the program (Ref B). The NSA took note of the request, but again asked that the Ambassador make the request to the Minister of Defense.

[4](#). (C) COMMENT: Embassy finds Aliyu Mohammed's continued careful distancing from defense issues interesting. The NSA is willing to listen, and seems willing to work in the background to make things happen, but is always careful to deflect discussion of security assistance issues to Minister Danjuma. This is most likely due to the close relationship shared by the President and his Defense Minister; it is also due, however, to sustained GON efforts, beginning with the President, to protect Danjuma's position and stature, despite the Minister's continuing bouts with illness. Nonetheless, Batagarawa's presence, and his close relationship with the NSA, seem to have created a back-channel for the NSA into the Ministry.

[5](#). (U) COMMENT CONTINUED: Ambassador will raise the rotation issue with the Acting Minister of Defense at the earliest opportunity. END COMMENT.

[6](#). (U) Freetown Minimize Considered.
Jeter